

**For Immediate Release Contact:**

Janice Barlow

Executive Director, Zero Breast Cancer

415-507-1949

[janiceb@zerobreastcancer.org](mailto:janiceb@zerobreastcancer.org)

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**Berkeley Lab Researcher to Receive Community Breast Cancer Research Award**

(San Rafael, Calif.) – On Thursday, May 5, 2011, Dr. Paul Yaswen, staff scientist in the Life Sciences Division at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, will receive the **Community Breast Cancer Research Award** presented by Zero Breast Cancer at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Honor Thy Healer Awards Celebration. The **Community Breast Cancer Research Award** is presented to distinguished individuals who actively support and participate in community-based participatory research focusing on the causes of breast cancer.

Dr. Yaswen is researching the molecular defects (both genetic and epigenetic) that contribute to the initiation and maintenance of malignancy in human breast cancer cells. In one of his studies, he has focused on how exposure to radiation – a prototypical environmental carcinogen, contributes to transformation of human mammary epithelial cells. By studying the effects of radiation on mammary epithelial cells using state of the art imaging, genomic, and genetic tools, Dr. Yaswen aims to discover cellular-level alterations associated with breast cancer risk. Recently, he has co-produced an educational toolkit called *The Breast Biologues: A biology dialogue about breast cancer and the environment* to translate his work to the community. The educational toolkit consists of an animated video and a comic book (in English and Spanish) being broadcast nationwide by the University of California Television (UCTV). It can be accessed online from the [Bay Area Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Center](#) and [Zero Breast Cancer](#) websites. It was also featured online in [Today at Berkeley Lab](#).

Zero Breast Cancer will honor Dr. Yaswen for his unique contributions to advancing the understanding of breast cancer and his commitment to educating the community about current scientific advances. These advances will hopefully lead to a greater understanding of, and new screenings for, contributing environmental factors. The **Community Breast Cancer Research Award** will be presented to Dr. Yaswen and his collaborators, Zena Werb, PhD of the University of California San Francisco and Mary Helen Barcellos-Hoff, PhD of New York University Langone School of Medicine.

Other awards presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Honor Thy Healer Celebration on Thursday, May 5, 2011 include: Healing Professional Award, Leadership Award, Healing Partner Award, and the Francine Levien Activist Award. The evening begins with a reception at 6 pm, followed by dinner and the awards ceremony at 7 pm at the Mill Valley Community Center, 180 Camino Alto, in Mill Valley, California. The Honorary Chair is Cheryl Jennings, KGO-7 TV Emmy Award-winning newscaster.

Tickets are \$135 per person and may be obtained by calling (415) 507-1949. Proceeds from the event support the research, education and community outreach programs of Zero Breast Cancer.

Zero Breast Cancer is a non-profit organization dedicated to finding the causes of breast cancer through community participation in the research process. We focus on identifying environmental factors and the role they play in breast cancer at all stages of life and across generations. For more information, please visit [www.zerobreastcancer.org](http://www.zerobreastcancer.org)

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